

National Boston Globe 50 Boston leaders call it 'proxy' war

2/3/71 By Crocker Snow Jr.
Globe Staff

P. 10 A group of 50 business-
men, academics and stu-
dent leaders who gathered
last weekend to discuss na-
tional priorities yesterday
criticized the Nixon Ad-

ministration's continued
use of air power in South-
east Asia as a means of
waging war "by proxy."

"We cannot condone a
policy which merely with-
draws ground troops while
we continue to wage a war
by other means which are

less visible to the American
public but nonetheless dev-
astating to the people who
are being bombed and
whose countries are being
destroyed," the group
stated.

Using the title "Project
Runnymede" for the week-
end session held in Ded-
ham, Mass., at MIT's Endi-
cott House retreat, their
prepared statement added,
"The US does not have the
right to use firepower to
determine who shall gov-
ern in Vietnam, Cambodia,
or Laos. We see no justifi-
cation for using aerial bom-
bardment throughout In-
dochina, sacrificing Asian
lives to save our prestige
while shielding our sensi-
bilities from the moral con-
sequences of our war poli-
cy.

Participants in the con-
ference were drawn from
business, professional and
academic life, including
Cyrus Vance, former Sec-
retary of the Army; Osborn
Elliott, editor of News-
week; Howard Johnson,
president of MIT; Maurice
Lazarus, vice chairman of
Federated Department
Stores; and Franklin Lind-
say, president of Itek Corp.

The group called its
statement a "consensus" of
the conference, indicating
that each participant did
not necessarily support
each and every point.

The conference, which
was addressed informally
by both presidential advis-
er Henry Kissinger and
former U.S. Senator Albert
Gore of Tennessee at the
outset, declared its support
of the Administration's
withdrawal of U.S. troops
from Vietnam and urged
that the process be ac-
celerated.

"There appears to be de-
veloping throughout Indo-
china a pattern of expand-
ing and intensifying the
war by proxy use of South
Vietnamese forces which
are equipped, financed and
supplied by the US and by
direct use of US air
power," their statement
said.

"We cannot believe that
this 'new war' is necessary
to protect the withdrawal

of American forces from
Vietnam — and we fear
that it is likely to prolong
or deepen American in-
volvement in Southeast
Asia . . ."

The group called for the
Nixon Administration to
restrict further use of air
power to protecting the
withdrawal of US forces,
and urged the President to
announce "an early fixed
withdrawal deadline" and
for Congress to reinforce
this by legislative means.

The conference was or-
ganized by a group of stu-
dents at MIT last spring
following the US military
incursion into Cambodia
and received early support
from the Itek Corporation.

Designed to "develop,
through dialogue, ap-
proaches to national moral
and political problems
which no single group of
participants could resolve
alone," the group will issue
further statements on do-
mestic problems in the fu-
ture.

Other participants from
business and the profes-
sions included: Hugh Calk-
ins, a Cleveland lawyer
and member of the Har-
vard Corporation; William
D. Eberle, president of
American Standard, Inc.;
Robert Manning, editor of
The Atlantic; Victor Palm-
ieri, a real estate executive,
and Arthur Taylor, a vice
president of the Interna-
tional Paper Co.

Also from the universi-
ties were Dr. Edward J.
Bloustein, president of
Bennington College; Daniel
Ellsberg of MIT; Matthew
Meselson of Harvard; Jer-
emy Stone, director of the
Federation of American
Scientists; and Jerome
Wiesner, provost of MIT.

Student participants in-
cluded a 12-man steering
committee from MIT along
with Richard Beaman of the
Ripon Society; Warner
Buxton, undergraduate
student body president of
Jackson State; Mark Ger-
zon, author of "The Whole
World is Watching: A
Young Man Looks at
Youth's Dissent"; and oth-
ers.